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infection seemed to have been isolated. The new and possibly somewhat ominous fact is that, so far as can be ascertained, the infection has been found nearly 2 miles farther up the river than it has ever reached before. If previous experience is repeated and the outbreak is successfully isolated there need be no apprehension. On the other hand, the discovery may indicate a steadily increasing radius of infection. Was the infection brought in a ship, or has it passed along the area which separates Wapping from the lower docks? That is the point toward which the investigations of the authorities are no doubt being directed.

It must be remembered that plague among rats, as well as among men, is essentially a seasonal disease. In England, as past records show, the plague season is likely to be the late summer and autumn, when rat fleas are most prevalent. The long spell of hot, dry weather through which we have been passing favors the increasing prevalence of rat fleas, and therefore may assist the spread of plague when an infection has been established.

The wharf where the plague rats were discovered has a timber landing stage, with a couple of tall warehouses attached. It is frequented by vessels from foreign ports, though not, it is believed, by ships from plague-stricken localities. On Friday week six dead rats were found at the wharf, and on Tuesday six more dead rats were found. Some of these rats were sent to the Local Government Board for examination. The tests are not yet complete, but it is known that four of them have been found to have died of plague.

The statement that one of the rats died of bubonic plague and the other from the pneumonic variety of the disease is of little practical importance. Many plague rats show on examination that their lungs have been affected, and very often they betray no signs of buboes. So long as the intermediary host of infection remains the rat flea it does not matter very much whether rats have died from the pneumonic or the bubonic form. The only essential point is the possibility of the transmission of infection to human beings, and the character of the complaint in the rat does not affect this possibility, for the bacillus is in all cases the same. The statement about pneumonic plague therefore need carry no unnecessary alarm.

The existence of plague in wharves and warehouses, which are not inhabited at night, may be regarded with comparative equanimity, so long as it does not spread to the rats in the plexus of mean streets which lie behind. Nevertheless, the Stepney authorities, guided by the local government board, are taking careful precautions. The sanitary staff of the Stepney borough council has commenced a house-to-house visitation in the neighborhood, and the inhabitants are being warned not to handle dead rats if any are found. All the managers of riverside wharves near the infected area have been duly notified and the medical men of the district have been requested to watch for any suspicious cases of illness among their patients. Little anxiety exists about the chance of possible transmission to human beings. The public health organization is so complete and alert that human cases could probably be very quickly isolated if they occurred. The real cause for anxiety is of another kind. If human cases occur they must be notified to the foreign powers who are signatory to the Venice and Paris Conventions concerning plague. In that event London would be declared an infected port for a prescribed number of days after the cases were noted, and the resulting interruption to the shipping trade would be grave.

While the recurrence in the port of London of an infection which has been already noted in three successive years can be regarded without excitement it has its serious aspects. It can not be too strongly urged that the mere presence of plague in England among rats, in however limited a form, may become a matter of sinister importance. If the Wapping outbreak marks a slowly widening circle of infection it would be in exact accord with Indian experience, for plague has sometimes taken months, or even years, to pass through the rats of a single village. So long as the rats are infected there must always be some danger to mankind.

In East Anglia, according to the statement made by the medical officer of the East Suffolk County council, no plague rat has been found since January. We have yet to learn what organized attempt has been made to discover the presence of plague in East Anglia since the brief period of careful examination early in the year.

## HAWAII.

### Record of Plague Infection.

The last case of human plague at Honolulu occurred July 12, 1910.

The last plague-infected rat was found at Aiea, 9 miles from Honolulu, April 12, 1910.

At Hilo the last case of human plague occurred March 23, 1910.

A fatal case occurred at Honokaa, 60 miles from Hilo, December 17, 1910; 2 fatal cases were reported January 31, 1911, and 1 fatal case was reported April 19.

The last plague-infected rat was found at Honokaa February 2, 1911. A plague-infected rat was found at Hilo during the week ended June 10, 1911.

Chief Quarantine Officer Ramus reports, June 26:

#### HONOLULU.

*Week ended June 24, 1911.*

Total rats and mongoose taken.....	577
Rats trapped.....	540
Mongoose trapped.....	22
Rats killed by sulphur dioxide.....	15
Examined bacteriologically.....	487
Classification of rats trapped:	
<i>Mus alexandrinus</i> .....	59
<i>Mus musculus</i> .....	201
<i>Mus norvegicus</i> .....	34
<i>Mus rattus</i> .....	246
Classification of rats killed by sulphur dioxide:	
<i>Mus alexandrinus</i> .....	6
<i>Mus rattus</i> .....	9
Average number of traps set daily.....	1,720

#### ITALY.

##### Status of Cholera.

Surgeon Geddings at Naples reports July 20:

From July 7 to 11, 76 cases of cholera with 24 deaths were reported in the city of Naples; in the rest of continental Italy 66 cases with 24 deaths; in the city of Palermo 84 cases with 27 deaths, and in the province of Palermo 6 cases with 3 deaths.

#### MEXICO.

##### Typhus Fever.

Acting Asst. Surg. Tappan at El Paso reports that during an investigation made by him May 14 of conditions existing at Juarez, Mexico, he found 19 cases of typhus fever among wounded soldiers in hospital.

At Mexico City Consul General Shanklin reports the occurrence of 58 cases of typhus fever with 20 deaths during the week ended June 10.

#### PERU.

##### Status of Plague.

The following statements of plague in Peru were received from the director of public health:

MAY 21-JUNE 3, 1911.

Localities.	Cases remaining May 20.	New cases.	Recovered.	Died.	Remaining June 3.
Lima.....	11	17	2	7	19
Callao.....	2	1	1	1	2
Trujillo.....	12	1	12		1
Islay.....	1	2	1		2
Chiclayo.....	7		4	1	2
Lambayeque.....	3		1	1	1
Pacasmayo.....		1			1
Santa.....		1			1